

the joint meeting, when we will hear the President of France speak, the Senate proceed to the consideration of the conference report on H.R. 3043, the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, if it has been received from the House; that there be 1 hour for debate divided equally among Senators HARKIN, REED of Rhode Island, SPECTER, and HUTCHISON, and 2 hours for debate under the control of the two leaders or their designees; that following the use or yielding back of time, Senator HUTCHISON be recognized to make a rule XXVIII scope point of order; that Senator HARKIN be recognized to waive rule XXVIII, and the Senate then proceed to debate the motion as under the provisions of rule XXVIII; that if the point of order is sustained, Senator COBURN be recognized to move to suspend the rules, provided it had been timely filed; that there then be 30 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that at the conclusion or yielding back of time, the Senate vote, without any intervening action, on his motion to suspend the rules; that if the motion to suspend is adopted, Senator COBURN's amendment be agreed to and the Senate proceed to concur as stated below; that if his motion fails, then the Senate, without any intervening action or debate, vote immediately on the motion to recede and concur with the further amendment as under the rule; that if the motion to waive is successful, the Senate then vote on Thursday, November 8, on cloture on the conference report as if it had been filed on Tuesday, November 6.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

REAL ID ACT

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, when the REAL ID Act was added to an emergency supplemental spending bill in 2005, with little debate or foresight, I believed that Congress had made a mistake. I was not alone, and since that time 38 States have either introduced or passed legislation opposing the law. Seventeen States have enacted laws in opposition. I have joined Senators AKAKA, SUNUNU, TESTER, BAUCUS, and ALEXANDER in introducing legislation to repeal the driver's license provisions of the law and to replace them with the negotiated rulemaking process that had been originally enacted in the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act. That bill, which REAL ID superseded, was intended to improve the security of State driver's licenses through a cooperative partnership with the States and the private sector.

The Judiciary Committee held a hearing on May 8 of this year to examine whether the REAL ID Act is actually an effective way to improve our security. I agreed with many at the hearing who argued that the REAL ID Act was not an effective way to improve

identity security, and the sacrifices Americans would be compelled to make in their personal privacy were unacceptable. All agreed more could and should be done to ensure the integrity of identification documents, but many cautioned that the REAL ID Act is not the most effective way to do it.

Opposition to the REAL ID Act has been bipartisan and widespread among the States and many Federal lawmakers. In addition to the enormous financial burdens placed on the States, the law raises serious privacy concerns about the Federal Government's interference in a responsibility traditionally left to the State. Proponents of the law proclaim it is not a national ID card. But when the Federal Government begins directing how a State driver's license is issued, what characteristics the card must have, and conditioning access to Federal buildings and airplanes on possession of a REAL ID card, it is difficult to think this is anything but the first, big step toward a national identification card that so many Americans oppose.

But the reality of the dissatisfaction among the American people is catching up with the administration. The Washington Post recently reported that Secretary Chertoff is expected to announce yet another delay for REAL ID's implementation deadline. Secretary Chertoff previously waived the May 2008 compliance deadline and set a new target of 2013 for nationwide compliance. Now Secretary Chertoff will reportedly extend this date to 2018 for drivers who are older than 40 or 50, and officials have said the Government will not bar those not possessing a REAL ID license from Federal facilities and airplanes.

Despite being faced with determined opposition from the States and many Members of Congress, the administration still refuses to reconsider implementation of the law and is ignoring the pleas of the States. Without buy-in from the States and the American people, this program is doomed to failure. Delaying the inevitable by pushing back deadlines is not the way we will improve identity security. Had the negotiated rulemaking provisions enacted in the 2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorist Prevention Act been left intact, meaningful identity security improvements could already be underway. Unfortunately, instead of addressing the fundamental problems this law poses for the States, the administration appears content merely to prolong a contentious and unproductive battle to force the States to comply. Rather than improved security, this course will result in resentment, litigation, and enormous costs that States will be forced to absorb. The administration would do much better to treat the States as partners and forgo the paternalistic mandates that the American people are rejecting. That spirit of cooperation would result in much greater security than the administration's go-it-alone strategy to force compliance with another ill-conceived policy.

Like the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative, the REAL ID Act represents precisely the big-government interference the President's party claims to dislike. The American people are demanding that the Federal Government take a second look at the wisdom of charging ahead with a national ID card, and the administration ought to listen carefully to what many have been saying since this law was enacted, before more time is wasted trying to force this unpopular and cumbersome law on the citizens of the United States. I welcome all Senators to join me and the other cosponsors of S. 717 in rejecting the burdensome mandates of REAL ID and advocating for a better system of securing our fundamental identification documents.

HATE CRIMES, BIGOTRY AND ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I attended a hearing of the Helsinki Commission on the increase in anti-Semitism and extremist political parties in Europe.

I take a deep interest in hate crimes, bigotry, and anti-Semitism. In our society, these issues are mostly restricted to the political fringe. Nobody in this country would gain widespread electoral support for the formation of an explicitly racist party. We are perhaps unique in that respect. In Europe, these parties are not only formed—they are prospering.

Today's hearing did much to highlight the rise of bigotry and discrimination in Europe. A number of experienced witnesses from the U.N., executive branch, and nonprofit sector described the political situation in Europe today, and it is alarming. Across the continent, extremist groups are parading openly and gaining support. In Russia, two thousand supporters of a fascist organization rallied on November 4, the country's National Day, to shout xenophobic and anti-Semitic slogans. Many gave the Hitler salute. This in Russia, which suffered more from the aggression of Nazism than perhaps any other nation in the world.

In Hungary last month, 600 people were sworn in as new members of the extremist, paramilitary "Hungarian Guard," wearing uniforms similar to those of the World War II fascist government. By its own account, the Guard has thousands of applications to join its ranks, at a time when the elected Hungarian government is already unpopular because of its previous deceptive election campaign. This criticism led to widespread street violence last year, creating a tense environment ripe for radicalization. The Hungarian Guard is supported by the rightwing political party Jobbik, which is small but virulent. The Prime Minister of Hungary likened the formation of the Hungarian Guard to the increasing influence of Brownshirts in Hitler's Germany, a comparison which seems to me—at least at an early stage—to be

apt. The Jewish community in Hungary is understandably wary of its new Guard, and I feel it is incumbent upon all of us to watch future events in that country closely.

But it is not just the fringe organizations which are growing in popularity; inch by inch, more moderate groups with the similar tenets are moving to the mainstream. Last month, the somewhat xenophobic Swiss People's Party, SVP, romped to significant success in Switzerland's national election. Perhaps this should not be cause for excessive alarm. After all, Switzerland has a highly developed political system, with a republican tradition dating back hundreds of years. These people are also not marginalized discontents with a perennial grudge on their shoulder; indeed, they seem to address several issues about which the average Swiss citizen is concerned. But if there is not cause for alarm, there is certainly cause for unease. One reason is an election poster used by the SVP, depicting a white sheep kicking a black sheep off of the flag of Switzerland. Because of its racial overtones, the U.N. has already condemned the poster, though the SVP claimed during the campaign the poster was not racist. Perhaps.

I do not believe that the SVP are a fascist party, as some of its critics allege. However, its success is indicative of a potentially ugly mood across the Atlantic, as Europeans born into welfare state luxury are unsure how globalization and the mobility of capital will affect their economic birthright. In uncertain economic times, opprobrium then falls easily on traditional scapegoats; Jews, gypsies, and other minorities. It is critical for the Europeans to remember that these minorities are no less citizens for being different. They lead law-abiding lives, pay their taxes, and serve in the military. It does not thus stand to reason that European societies can treat them eternally as second-class citizens.

Groups like the Hungarian Guard would likely protest that their rigid stance is only aimed at those who become illegal, who commit crimes or threaten Hungary's law-and-order. But given the heated rhetoric on this issue, and the current torrid geopolitical climate, the status of minorities, particularly Jews and Muslims, in Western countries is an issue which needs to be tackled carefully. Many of the current challenges facing the world are rooted in the Middle Eastern and Islamic nations, and it would be foolish to place lives in jeopardy over election-day rhetoric.

Coincidental with rise of the Hungarian Guard and its ilk, there is another factor I find particularly troubling: the increase in overall anti-Semitism in Europe. This has several possible causes, and I certainly do not want to lay the blame solely on the shoulders of rightwing extremists. Passions arising from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict surely play a part, espe-

cially considering the large Muslim population in these countries. But it does seem true that there is still a strain of the old European anti-Semitism running through the Hungarian Guard, Russian fascists, and their like, a disturbing taint which has never quite vanished from European political culture.

Anti-Semitic violence was one of the terrible specters of the last century. After the Second World War, Europeans made a solemn commitment never to let such hatred loose again on their citizens of Jewish faith. Despite neo-Nazi movements in several countries, the European commitment to this resolution has been impressive. It is equally important to remember, however, just how recently was the Holocaust. The slaughter was ended 62 years ago, and many still live who were caught in its vice. In the breadth of human existence, 62 years is barely a lifetime. So I strongly believe it is necessary, even as extremist parties become increasingly visible, that responsible leaders recommit themselves to the eradication of anti-Semitism in their realms.

Uncertain times often lead men to seek the simplest solutions, the elements of their national culture with which they are the most comfortable. Two of these traditions are, unfortunately, extremist nationalism and anti-Semitism. Given the history of Europe, each nation should redouble its efforts to make peace with those in their ranks who are different. And it is also up to Europe to ensure that when they say "never again," they mean it.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I rise to pay tribute to 35 young Americans who have been killed in Iraq since July 23, 2007. This brings to 812 the number of soldiers who were either from California or based in California that have been killed while serving our country in Iraq. This represents 21 percent of all U.S. deaths in Iraq.

Hospitalman Daniel S. Noble, 21, died July 24, as a result of enemy action while conducting security operations in the Dilaya Province of Iraq. Hospitalman Noble was permanently assigned to 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force Pacific, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Whittier, CA.

SSG Joshua P. Mattero, 29, died on July 24, in Baqubah, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his patrol. Staff Sergeant Mattero was assigned to the 725th Ordnance Company, 63rd Ordnance Battalion, 52nd Ordnance Group, Fort Drum, NY. He was from San Diego, CA.

CPL Matthew R. Zindars, 21, died July 24, while conducting combat operations in the Diyala province of Iraq. Corporal Zandars was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SPC Jaime Rodriguez, Jr., 19, died July 26, in Saqlawiyah, Iraq of wounds

sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle. Specialist Rodriguez was assigned to the 5th Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, GA. He was from Oxnard, CA.

CPL Sean A. Stokes, 24, died July 30, from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. Corporal Stokes was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Auburn, CA.

SPC Daniel F. Reyes, 24, died July 31, in Tunis, Iraq, of wounds suffered from enemy indirect fire. Specialist Reyes was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Airborne, 25th Infantry Division, Fort Richardson, AK. He was from San Diego, CA.

LCpl Cristian Vasquez, 20, died August 2, from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. Lance Corporal Vasquez was assigned to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Coalinga, CA.

SGT Jon E. Bonnell Jr., 22, died August 7, from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. Sergeant Bonnell was assigned to 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA.

SGT Michael E. Tayaotao, 27, died August 9, from wounds suffered while conducting combat operations in the Al Anbar province of Iraq. Sergeant Tayaotao was assigned to 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, CA. He was from Sunnyvale, CA.

SSG Sean P. Fisher, 29, died August 14, in Al Taqqadum, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. Staff Sergeant Fisher was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 52nd Aviation Regiment, Task Force 49, Fort Wainwright, AK. He was from Santee, CA.

SGT Matthew L. Tallman, 30, died August 22, in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. Sergeant Tallman was assigned to the 4th Squadron, 6th U.S. Air Cavalry Regiment, Fort Lewis, WA. He was from Groveland, CA.

SSG Jason L. Paton, 25, died August 22, in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. Staff Sergeant Paton was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Schofield Barracks, HI. He was from Poway, CA.

CPL Nathan C. Hubbard, 21, died August 22, in Multaka, Iraq, of injuries suffered when his helicopter crashed. Corporal Hubbard was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team,